

INTIMATIONS.

1883. NOW READY. 1888.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
FOR 1889.
With which is incorporated
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.
(TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ISSUE).
COMPLETE, WITH APPENDIX, PLANS, &c., &c.
Royal 8vo. pp. 1200. \$3.00.
SHALLER-EDITION, Royal 8vo. pp. 818. \$3.00.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
has been thoroughly revised and brought up
to date, and is again much increased in bulk.

NOTICE.

GARDEN SEEDS.
SEASON 1888-9.
THE FOLLOWING SEEDS required for
immediate sowing
CAN BE SUPPLIED AT ONCE—
CELERY.
CYCLAMEN.
CINERARIA.

OUR FIRST SHIPMENT
of
ASSORTED VEGETABLE AND
FLOWER SEEDS
has arrived, and will be ready for delivery in
A DAY OR TWO.

CATALOGUES AND GARDENING NOTES
ON APPLICATION.
A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Hongkong, 17th August, 1888.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Communications on Editorial matters should be
addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The
Manager," and not to individuals by name.
Correspondents are requested to forward their names
and address with communications addressed to the
Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good
faith.
All letters for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.
Advertisements and subscriptions which are not
ordered for a fixed period will be continued until
cancelled.
Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should
be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.
After that hour the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, AUGUST 27th, 1888.

Tax statement made by a correspondent in
another column in reference to the reported
opening of the West River will cause a mis-
leading of disappointment amongst the mer-
cantile community of this colony. For many
years past the Chamber of Commerce has
consistently agitated for the opening of this
magnificent waterway to steam navigation
and foreign trade. It now appears, if our
correspondent is correctly informed, that the
river is to be opened to steam navigation,
but that it is to be exploited by a native
Company, and that foreigners are not to be
allowed any direct share in the new move-
ment. It is better that the river should be
opened to native-owned steamers, only than
not at all, but it behoves foreign merchants
and their Ministers at Peking to endeavour
to secure for the subjects of the treaty
powers the same privileges on the West
River, that they enjoy on the Yangtze.
When exceptional advantages were
secured by Force for the overland trade be-
tween Tongkin and the provinces of Kwang-
si and Yunnan the opening of the West
River was urged as an equivalent to be given
to other powers in compliance with the
spirit of the most favoured nation clause.
Hopes were entertained that at last the
River would be thrown open and foreign
trade in South China be allowed a fair chance
—which it has never yet had—of attaining
its proper development. It has been reported
more than once that the negotiations were
progressing satisfactorily, but now the de-
sired consummation seems nearly as far off as
ever. CHANG CHIN-TUNG, the Viceroy of the
two Kwang, hates the foreigners and will have
no more to do with them than he can help,
and so long as he remains in power the out-
look for foreign enterprises does not appear
fraught with very magnificent possibilities.
Foreign investors, however, the Viceroy
seems not disinclined to adopt. Rumours
of railways under his jurisdiction have
obtained such proportions that it is impossible
not to believe that the subject is at the least
under very serious consideration, and the
establishment of steam communication on
the West River, if it does not owe its initiation
to him seems to have met with his ready
approval. The new departure will, we anti-
cipate, lead to a considerably increased de-
mand for Hongkong imports. In the Can-
ton delta, where taxation is light, the con-
sumption of foreign goods is fairly large,
but beyond Samshui it dwindles down to
very small proportions. Foreign goods may
be found in the shops of all the towns
along the river, but they are so
expensive as to be beyond the reach of all
but the well-to-do classes. For this there
are two reasons, first, the cost of carriage by
junk up-stream, and second, the numerous
lock stations at which toll is levied en route.
So serious an item is the latter that a large
proportion of the small traders that exist
finds its way by the circuitous Yangtze
route and some of it via Pakhoi. With the
establishment of steam communication to
Wuchow the cost of carriage will be reduced
to a trifle. The question remains, Will tax-
ation be reduced? If the new line is to prove
a success, this will have to be the case, and
as the Viceroy is no doubt desirous it should
prove a success, it may, we think, be con-
cluded that goods conveyed from Hongkong or
Canton to Wuchow will be subject only to
one settled tax, and will be laid down free of
aqueous. If this be so, the trade in foreign
goods along the West River will receive a
large impulse, for Wuchow is admirably sit-
uated as a distributing centre, and an undoubted
market exists if the goods can only be laid
down at a reasonable charge. The immu-
nity from excise and arbitrary taxation
will not be so secure as if Wuchow
had been created a treaty port, though,
if the transit pass system be en-
forced, as we trust it will, the liability to
excesses will be much reduced. The
establishment of the native company is
therefore, speaking in the interests of for-
eign trade in general, an event to be hailed
with some degree of satisfaction. The foreign
merchant, however, will not be brought into the
same close contact with his customers that he

would be by the opening of a treaty port,
and will not be able to study their require-
ments as exhaustively. The steamer service
would also be more efficiently and econ-
omically conducted by the foreign lines, who
have the necessary organisation and understand
the business. The agitation for the opening
of Wuchow as a treaty port must therefore not
be allowed to drop in consequence of the
step taken by the Chinese authorities in es-
tablishing steam communication under their
own auspices.

We understand the officers of Police who
are in possession of good conduct medals
have petitioned the Government with a view
that the allowance which is carried with
these medals should be allowed to count
for purposes of pension on their retirement
from the Force. In the Civil Service a
"personal allowance" is granted to officers
for lengthened service, and this is allowed
to count for pension exactly the same as
salary, while in the Police Service, the
"allowances" granted to officers or men who
have distinguished themselves by extra-
ordinary diligence, zeal, or exertion in the
execution of their duties is entirely lost
sight of in the computation of pension.
Under the old Police Ordinance of 1862 (No.
9) it was clearly defined that pensions should
be computed upon the average amount of the
annual pay received by the officer retiring
during the last three years of his service,
but under the new Police Ordinance,
No. 14 of 1887, the Governor in Council
has power to determine in each particular
case the amount of pension to be paid. We
are strongly of opinion that it would greatly
improve the esprit de corps if it were ordered
that should an officer or constable continue
to merit the approval of the Govern-
ment to the end of his service his good
conduct allowance would be allowed to count
towards pension. We admit that the Police
Pension List is already heavy, but were this
privilege granted no appreciable increase
would take place. We trust, therefore, His
Excellency may see fit to give the position
his favourable consideration, so that an
officer who has well earned a good conduct
allowance may fully reap the benefit of his
meritorious service on retiring from the Force.

Time complaint of Mr. MACKAY as to the
charge for a passage by the Canadian
Pacific steamer from Amoy to Kobe, pub-
lished in another column, is not supported by
sound argument. He questions the right of
public carriers to charge more for conveyance
from a way port than from the terminus.
The right of carriers to do this is fully estab-
lished, and is frequently acted upon by
railway companies in England. It was made
the subject of complaint some time ago that
goods could be shipped at New York, trans-
ferred to rail at Liverpool, and conveyed to
London for less money than would have been
charged for goods forwarded from
Liverpool as the original point of departure.
What may be done with goods may, of
course, be done in the case of passengers.
Rates are governed more by the amount
of competition than by distance, and this
is the reason that Mr. MACKAY had to pay
more for a passage from Amoy than if he
had come to Hongkong and taken passage
there. In the meantime it may be observed
that the Canadian Pacific Company has
given residents at the ports a cheaper and
more expeditious means of taking a trip to
Japan than previously existed. Even at the
date complained of by Mr. MACKAY there was
a saving of \$10 besides the saving of five
and a shorter sea voyage; but from the guide
book issued by the Company this month we
note that the fare from Amoy or Fuchow to
Kobe, as given in the local rates of passage
money, has been reduced to \$45, the same rate
as from Hongkong, thus making the advan-
tages of the line still greater for residents
at those ports. The extra \$10 is retained in
the case of through rates to America or Eng-
land, and in view of the expenses to which a
steamer is put in going into a Chinese port,
and of the saving and convenience offered
to passengers, it does not seem unreasonable
that some extra charge above Hongkong rates
should be made if the Company think it to
their interest. That is a matter which con-
cerns themselves alone, and which they have
no doubt decided on ordinary business prin-
ciples.

The Agents (Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.)
inform us that the steamer *Amoy* will leave
Singapore on Friday for this port.

The Agents (Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co.) in-
form us that the *Shire* will leave Singapore
on Saturday for this port.

We are informed by the Agent that the Mes-
sageries Maritimes steamer *Amoy*, with the net
outward French mail, is to leave Saigon at 4 a.m.
this morning for this port.

The *Japan Gazette* learns from a correspondent
at Hakodate that H.R.M. a squadron was to leave
the port on or about the 15th inst. for Kam-
chatka and other Russian ports, and was to
return to Hakodate in the latter part of September.

We are informed by the agents of the Cana-
dian Pacific S. S. Co. Messrs. Adamson,
Bell & Co., that the steamer *Amoy*, which was
arrived in New York on the 21st inst., has
just left the steamer *Danube* arrived at Van-
couver on the 23rd inst.

A Government notification in another column
announces that Auxiliary fireboats will take place
from the Kowloon Dock Battery on Wednesday
the 29th inst., at 4.30 p.m. The direction of
the fire will be towards the Lyseum Pool Pass,
and all junks and other vessels are warned to keep
clear of the range.

The *Shanghai Courier* hears that the *Glass*
works and buildings on the Yangtze
River, near the camp Hotel, have been pur-
chased by the Hall and Holt Co-operative Com-
pany, Limited. The Company's brewery and
canning steam factory will be transferred to
these premises. The price is reported to be
\$20,000.

The *Macao Correo* of Friday last says—"It
is said that several public servants and the re-
tainers of the Monte will not vote in the election of
the municipal Chamber, which will take place on
Sunday in consequence of the celebrated order
of H.E. the Governor. We will wait the event
in order to speak better, and when we can publish
the list of those who allowed themselves to be in-
fluenced by an illegal order, and the names of
the administrative authority that placed in the
of the alleged order of the dissolved
Chamber will be glad to learn from a telegram
from another column, that the old Chamber was
re-elected unanimously yesterday."

Mr. Arrol, we note from the *Courier* of the
19th August, has just returned to Hongkong
from a tour of inspection to the Canton and
Shanghai rivers. He has returned with a quantity
of silverware. This Mr. Arrol's intention to
distribute the silverware among the Canton vil-
lages and to establish a branch of the Canton
Silverware Co. in Shanghai. The Canton vil-
lages are said to be very poor, and to be
to be thirty per cent. better than the native
population. Not only so, but the affairs of the
Bank have been so arranged, that the results of
our exchange operations have been equal to
those of any previous half year in the history
of the Corporation. I mention this to prevent any
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